

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-7 upon substitution with the following Claims 8-17.

8. (New) A method for manufacturing a transdermal drug delivery system comprising the successive steps of:

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- (a) dissolving a pharmaceutically active substance in a solvent comprising a skin penetration enhancer, selected from the group consisting of crotamiton, diethyltoluamide and a mixture thereof, to form a solution having a less than saturation concentration of the active substance;
 - (b) admixing the step (a) solution to an aqueous dispersion or an aqueous solution of an adhesive;
 - (c) forming a film of the step (b) mixture on a release liner or a backing sheet; and
 - (d) drying the step (c) film at a temperature less than the boiling point of the solvent in step (a) to maintain a less than saturation concentration of active substance in the solvent.

9. (New) The method according to Claim 8, wherein the solvent in step (a) comprises a 5:95 to 95:5 weight % ratio of crotamiton to diethyltoluamide.

10. (New) The method according to Claim 8, wherein the solvent in step (a) comprises at least one other penetration enhancer.

11. (New) The method according to Claim 10, wherein the at least one other penetration enhancer is selected from the group consisting of diethylene glycol monoethyl ether, unsaturated polyglycolysed glycerides, glyceryl and polyethylene glycol esters, propylene glycol laurate, oil of Melaleuca, propylene glycol, 2-methyl-1,3-propanediol, and polyethylene glycol.

12. (New) The method according to Claim 8, wherein the concentration of active substance in solvent is less than 90% of saturation.

13. (New) The method according to Claim 8, wherein the active substance is estradiol.

14. (New) The method according to Claim 8, wherein the adhesive is selected from the group consisting of acrylate, polyisobutylene and silicone adhesives.

15. (New) The method according to Claim 8, wherein the film is formed on a release liner, dried according to step (d), then laminated onto a backing sheet.

16. (New) The method according to Claim 8, wherein the film is formed on a backing sheet, dried according to step (d), then laminated onto a release liner.

17. (New) The method according to Claim 8, wherein the drying temperature in step (d) is increased sequentially from 50 to 140°C.
